NCA
VOC FOR IOP/FN
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CHARLES MEDD

AFTER NEW YORK AND WISCONSIN, MORE QUESTIONS

ANNCR:

WITH ALL THE VOTES COUNTED IN THE NEW YORK AND WISCONSIN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES, CHARLES MEDD FINDS THE RESULTS SOMEWHAT CONFUSING.

VOICE:

FOR WEEKS, THE EXPERTS WERE POINTING TO APRIL SIXTH AS THE DAY SOME MAJOR QUESTIONS IN THE 1976 ELECTION CAMPAIGN WOULD BE ANSWERED, BUT WHAT THE ANSWERS ARE DEPENDS ON WHO'S GIVING THEM. AMONG THE DEMOCRATS, SENATOR HENRY JACKSON IS BEAMING OVER HIS VICTORY IN NEW YORK WHERE HE CAPTURED MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED DELEGATES TO HIS PARTY'S NOMINATING CONVENTION. BUT THE JACKSON TOTAL, HOWEVER IMPRESSIVE, WAS FAR SMALLER THAN HIS ORIGINAL PREDICTION. WHAT'S MORE, IT CAME IN LARGE MEASURE FROM JEWISH VOTERS WHOSE CONCENTRATED ELECTORAL STRENGTH, SO UNIQUE TO NEW YORK, WILL NOT BE FOUND IN OTHER STATES.

MEANWHILE, JIMMY CARTER SAYS HE'S PLEASED WITH HIS VICTORY IN WISCONSIN, HIS SIXTH IN THE YEAR'S FIRST EIGHT PRIMARIES. BUT THE CARTER WIN, BASED ON LATE RETURNS FROM RURAL WISCONSIN, WAS SO NARROW THAT HIS MUCH-PUBLICIZED MOMENTUM WAS SLOWED DOWN IF NOT STOPPED.

CONGRESSMAN MORRIS UDALL ALSO FOUND SOMETHING TO CHEER ABOUT. THE ONLY LIBERAL AMONG THE LEADING ACTIVE DEMOCRATS DIDN'T WIN EITHER ELECTION BUT HE FINISHED A STRONG SECOND IN BOTH, AND IN THE PROCESS PICKED UP ENOUGH DELEGATES TO COMPETE WITH THE TOP TWO, CARTER AND JACKSON. APRIL SIXTH WAS CLEARLY MISTER UDALL'S BEST SHOWING TO DATE, BUT HE HAS

YET TO WIN A PRIMARY AND CAN'T EXPECT TO WIN THE PARTY'S NOMINATION IF HE CONTINUES TO COME IN SECOND.

AS FOR THE REPUBLICANS, THERE WAS ONLY ONE REAL CONTEST. IN NEW YORK, WHERE NEITHER PRESIDENT FORD NOR RONALD REAGAN CAMPAIGNED, THE VOTERS CHOSE CONVENTION DELEGATES, THE VAST MAJORITY OF THEM FAVORABLE TO VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER. AT CONVENTION TIME, THEY ARE EXPECTED TO SIDE WITH MISTER FORD. IN WISCONSIN, THE PRESIDENT WAS THE VICTOR, BUT HE ALONE CAMPAIGNED IN THAT STATE. THE VOTE -- COMING A FEW DAYS AFTER GOVERNOR REAGAN'S TELEVISED ATTACK ON U.S. FOREIGN POLICY -- SHOWED ABOUT THE SAME FIFTY-FIVE-TO-FORTY-FIVE MARGIN THAT MISTER FORD HAS ENJOYED IN ALL BUT ONE OF THE PREVIOUS PRIMARIES. STILL, RONALD REAGAN CALLED IT A MORAL VICTORY, ALTHOUGH HE WILL NEED THE OTHER KIND, AND MANY OF THEM, TO TAKE THE REPUBLICAN NOMINATION.

DESPITE SO MANY SELF-PROCLAIMED WINNERS, THERE WAS ROOM FOR SOME LOSERS AS WELL. AMONG THEM ARE DEMOCRATS GEORGE WALLACE AND FRED HARRIS WHOSE POOR SHOWINGS IN BOTH STATES MAY HAVE BROUGHT THEIR STAGGERING CAMPAIGNS TO AN END. ALSO TARNISHED WERE THE BIG ELECTRONIC COMPUTERS WHICH PREMATURELY PREDICTED A UDALL VICTORY IN WISCONSIN, MISLEADING THE EASTERN HALF OF THE COUNTRY THAT WENT TO BED WITH THAT PROJECTION IN MIND. THE OTHER LOSERS WERE THOSE VOTERS WHO WANT TO KNOW JUST WHO THE PARTY NOMINEES WILL BE. THE LATEST PRIMARIES DIDN'T HELP THEM AT ALL. THEY SIMPLY PROMISED MORE POLITICAL DRAMA IN THE WEEKS AHEAD.

GH/CAK